



Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

June 23, 2020

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the bi-weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important updates

- **New:** [CCTO Job Tools](#)
- **New:** [CCTO OOI Contact List](#)
- **New:** [Find My Testing Place](#) (file attached)

NC EDSS

The NC EDSS Data Team has a new process that should significantly decrease the input required for labs to report (positive and negative) COVID-19 results automatically = CLDA (.csv Lab Data Automation). The first pilot tests will conclude this week. We would like LDHs to share a list of all laboratories and testing facilities that are currently faxing lab results to the LHDs – so that those facilities can be included in the NC EDSS Team outreach program for CLDA. Please email your list to CLDA.SupportServices@dhhs.nc.gov and include the lab name, any contact information you have (including a direct contact at the laboratory if it is available) and the approximate volume of labs (positive and negative) the lab is sending to your county every week. Please remember that this onboarding is for COVID-19 only.

To meet the county needs for assistance with COVID-19 data entry, NC EDSS is offering COVID-19 specific trainings 4 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) and a full basic NC EDSS class on Wednesdays. Please email NCEDSSTrainings@dhhs.nc.gov the list of persons you need trained, their work email, and the roles/permissions they need. Please indicate preferred training dates in your email.

Contact Tracing

The Out Of Jurisdiction (OOJ) protocol and list of OOJ contacts are now available on CD Manual here: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/coronavirus.html> If you would like to submit an OOJ county contact name, please email Luke Keeler at Luke.keeler@dhhs.nc.gov

The job aid for entering contacts for Communicable Disease nurses and other Case investigators is now available in the CDB manual webpage Job Aid section located here:

https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/coronavirus_CCTOjobaids.html



Training for the designated LHD administrators on creating local views and downloading data was completed last week (6/15-19); the recorded training should be available by 6/26. A link will widely be distributed when it is available. To submit an LHD administrator name, please email Luke Keeler Luke.keeler@dhhs.nc.gov

Training outlining the process to upload a spreadsheet of contacts is expected roll out next week (6/29-7/3). Additionally, priority CCTO tool updates to be completed in the next month include:

- Translation of the daily assessment into Spanish
- Creating LHD-level security (restricts contact event editing permissions to the county level)

Requesting CCNC surge staff can be done by emailing any of the following:

- cctc-staffing@communitycarenc.org
- Christina Page (cpage@communitycarenc.org)

Laboratory Entry into NC EDSS

SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Information for LHDs

Antigen tests are designed for rapid diagnosis of active infection by detecting viral proteins in nasal swabs or similar clinical specimens. Whereas antibodies are produced by the body in response to infection, an antigen is a molecule or component of a pathogen causing the infection.

Several commercial manufacturers are developing SARS-CoV-2 antigen tests, although only one test kit has obtained FDA Emergency Use Authorization so far (Sofia 2 SARS Antigen FIA; Quidel Corporation).

Current data show that antigen tests have high specificity but low sensitivity, meaning that a positive is likely to be a true positive but a negative may be a false negative. The Quidel assay with FDA EUA has a reported sensitivity of 80% compared to RT-PCR. Thus, depending on the context, negative results from an antigen test may need to be confirmed with a more sensitive molecular assay prior to making decisions to treat, isolate, or otherwise prevent possible spread of the virus.

All positive antigen tests should be entered into NC EDSS and receive the same follow-up as a positive molecular test. A case with a positive antigen result should be classified as probable, consistent with the current CSTE COVID-19 case definition. Antigen test results are currently feeding into NC EDSS via ELR and manual entry of positive results will be enabled within the next week.

Negative antigen tests will feed into NC EDSS similar to negative molecular tests and should not enter your workflow. Because of the much greater probability of a false negative antigen test compared to RT-PCR, people with suspected COVID-19 with a negative antigen test should be re-tested using an FDA-authorized molecular test.

Movement and Monitoring Guidance

The NC DHHS Movement, Monitoring and Notification (MMN) Team handles out of state notifications for cases and contacts. MMN is now using the CCTO app (beginning 6/22). *All CCTO users should follow the protocols for closing out a contact as described in the [Closing Out Cases](#) guidance document; additional CCTO guidance is available on the [NC CD Manual](#).*

- **For NC residents who are contacts to cases in other states:** as MMN team receives notifications from other states, contacts are entered into CCTO and assigned to OOJ County staff listed on the [CCTO OOJ](#)



[Contact List](#). If you have any questions about a specific contact, please reach out to the MMN Team member who entered the contact. Contacts to cases in other states will not have an NCEDSS ID for the source case.

- **For contacts who live in another NC county**, enter all known information and assign to the OOJ Representative for the patient's county of residence. Do not close to monitoring.
- **When a contact resides outside of NC**, please enter all information into the contact in CCTO and assign it to "Jennifer Wheeler." Please enter patient address, phone and email before assigning the case. Additional relevant information can be entered into the notes field. **NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED** on the part of the CCTO user once the contact has been assigned to Jennifer Wheeler. The "State OOJ, notification completed" option under "Final Outcome Measure" is for state MMN Team use **ONLY** and should not be used by county staff.
- **For NC cases who traveled by plane, train, bus, etc. while infectious**: MMN Team notifies CDC Quarantine Station regarding COVID-19 positive interstate travelers so that contact tracing can take place. Key information is required to notify CDC including: all demographic information, patient name, DOB, county of residence, phone number, complete address, symptom onset, airline/train/bus information (including flight/train/bus numbers, departure date(s), departure/arrival cities for each segment, seat numbers), lab specimen collection date and result date, lab that performed testing, and whether patient was hospitalized as a result of their illness. Please enter all information into NCEDSS and email the NCEDSS event ID to your regional TATP nurse, who will follow up with the MMN Team. Alternatively, counties may fax complete information to the CD Branch at 919-733-0490.

Environmental Health

In preparation for the reopening of businesses across North Carolina, local health departments may be asked by industry partners to review business reopening plans. This is voluntary for local health departments, and they are not expected to write plans.

- A checklist for business reopening has been drafted using the main topics from business reopening guidance: increased social distancing, implement hygiene protocols, monitor workforce and participant health, and other considerations.
- This checklist will be posted on the NCDHHS website for businesses and on the Environmental Health COVID-19 resource page for businesses and local health departments to access.
- Plans are reviewed by local health departments to provide feedback and suggestions, and language should not suggest approval of the plan or permission to operate a business that is closed under the current Executive Order.

If a local health department needs assistance with reviewing plans, reach out to state EH contacts, Larry Michael at Larry.Michael@dhhs.nc.gov or Veronica Bryant at Veronica.Bryant@dhhs.nc.gov

Find My Testing Place

Please find attached this week's Excel file for LHDs to upload testing sites to *Find My Testing Place*. This file corresponds to the instructions sent out LHDs by Dr. Scott Shone last week. If you have any testing sites in your county that have been omitted from this list, please contact Jamie Pritchett at: Jamie.Pritchett@dhhs.nc.gov